

# South Dakota LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

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News Release

March 21, 2003

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## ***RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP FROM LAST YEAR***

**SIOUX FALLS, March 21, 2003** – Commercial red meat production for South Dakota totaled 76.4 million pounds during February. This was up 12 percent from one year ago but down 15 percent from last month, according to USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. For February, pork production was up, while sheep and lamb production was down.

Commercial hog slaughter for South Dakota totaled 352,800 head during February compared to 315,000 head last year. Average live weight was 265 pounds, which was up 4 pounds from February 2002. Federally inspected slaughter totaled 352,000 head, which was comprised of 8,700 sows, and 343,300 barrows and gilts.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter for South Dakota totaled 800 head during February compared to 1,200 head last year. Average live weight was 120 pounds, which was down 1 pound from February 2002. Federally inspected slaughter totaled 700 head of lambs and yearlings.

Commercial slaughter data for beef cattle is not published this month, following agency guidelines on disclosure of confidential data.

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